THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In the last two years rowdy sheets were maintained for six persons."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, are the Government aware that sometimes the opening of rowdy sheets is done from personal motives and sometimes on political motives? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not concede that point, Sir. After all in this particular area it is only the old cases which are being continued except for a new case which was opened in the year 1953."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, since secrecy is maintained with regard to these rowdy sheets, will the Hon. Minister please instruct the Police Department that in cases where political workers are involved, the Hon. Minister concerned should be informed of that? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" But here, Sir, there has absolutely been no political case at all. I have gone through the whole list. I shall anyhow consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member. But I can assure the hon. Member that purely on political grounds no rowdy sheets are opened now-a-days."

Construction of a dam across Varahanathi.

* 246 *Q.*—SRI B. R. M. MUTHU THEVAR (on behalf of Sri K. Mookkiah Thevar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the landowners and cultivating classes of Periyakulam, Madurai district, with regard to the construction of an irrigation dam at Southuparai or Sastha Koil across the river Varahanathi; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The particular representation referred to by the hon. Member was received in 1952 and recorded after examination, the proposal having been found to be not feasible from the point of view of availability of supplies and suitability of site."

Grant of leave to nurses in the Government General Hospital, Madras.

* 247 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the nurses working in the Government General Hospital, Madras, get any casual leave and privilege leave annually; and

13th December 1954]

(*b*) if so, how many nurses were given casual leave and privilege leave in 1952–53?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) Casual leave was granted to 105 nurses and privilege leave was granted to 50 nurses."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in the General Hospital at Madras there are about 500 nurses. From the answer of the Hon. Minister it is clear that so many of the nurses have not been given either privilege leave or casual leave to which they are entitled. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that several applications from these nurses for casual and privilege leave, to which they are entitled, were refused by the Matron and the Hospital authorities?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I do not know from where the hon. Member got his figures that there are 500 nurses in the General Hospital. It is not more correct than the figure quoted by another hon. Member the other day about the birth-rate in Malabar. These are quite unauthorized statements. Not only privilege leave, but casual leave, and maternity leave was granted to nurses."

Polling arrangements during the Malabar District Board elections.

* 248 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many polling stations were arranged in Malabar during the recent district board elections and how do they compare with those for the last general elections;

(*b*) whether there were separate booths for men and women; and

(*c*) if so, how many were provided for women in the Malabar District Board elections?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) The number of polling stations opened in the Malabar district for the last district board elections was 829, compared with 1,022 polling stations opened during the last general elections to the State Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha.

" (*b*) & (*c*) No separate booths were provided for women, but separate voting compartments were opened for them in booths, wherever necessary."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in one firka for about 22 villages with 64,000 voters there were only seven polling stations and each station which was accommodated in an elementary school had about 8 to 11 booths with all the overcrowding and confusion. Will the Government see to it that in villages having at least a thousand voters a polling station is established and that no polling station generally has more than two booths?"

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS